

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 10-13, 20, 23, 31-33 and 35-37 are amended herein, and claims 21, 24 and 38 are canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10-20, 22-23, 26-27, 29, 31-33 and 35-37 are pending. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

112 Rejections

Claims 20-21 and 37-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for reciting "cycle 60" whereas the page 4 of the specification recites "cycle 30". Although Applicants contend that the Examples do support having "cycle 60", claim 20 has been amended to recite "cycle 30"; claim 37 depends from claim 20. Claims 21 and 38 have been canceled. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 7, 10-13, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31-33 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for various reasons recited in the Office Action.

The dependency of claim 7 has been corrected; an upper limit has been added to claim 7.

Claims 10-13 have been amended to specifically recite ceramic aluminum oxide abrasive particles, as in claim 1.

Applicants disagree that the limitation of claim 13 (i.e., non-seeded ceramic alumina) is defined in claim 1. Claim 1 recites "ceramic aluminum oxide", which is generic and encompasses both seeded and non-seeded ceramic aluminum oxide (aluminum oxide and alumina being the same). Applicants contend that each of claim 12 (i.e., seeded aluminum oxide) and 13 (non-seeded aluminum oxide) further defines the ceramic aluminum oxide of claim 1.

Claim 21 has been canceled.

Although Applicants contend that one reading claim 23 would know that "ceramic abrasive particles" in parts (e) and (f) refers to the "ceramic aluminum oxide abrasive particles" in part (a), due at least to antecedent basis, claim 23 has been amended so that the recitation of "ceramic aluminum oxide abrasive particles" is consistent.

Claim 24 has been canceled.

Although Applicants contend that one reading claims 31-32 would know that "ceramic abrasive particles" refers to the "ceramic aluminum oxide abrasive particles" in claim 23, due at least to antecedent basis, claims 31-32 have been amended so that the recitation of "ceramic aluminum oxide abrasive particles" is consistent.

Applicants disagree that claim 33 broadly defines ceramic abrasive particles. Claim 33 depends from claim 22 and further defines that the step of applying a plurality of abrasive composites on the front face comprises applying a plurality of abrasive composites, each of the abrasive composites having a height, measured from the front face of the backing, of 750-1016 micrometers (as amended to provide an upper limit). There is no recitation of ceramic abrasive particles, specifically, in claim 33.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5, 14-19, 22, 35 and 36 were indicated as allowable. Claims 7, 10-13, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 37 and 38 were indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the 112 rejections above. Applicants believe that the rejections have been overcome, and that these claims are now allowable.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney Dan Biesterveld, Reg. No. 45,898, at 651.737.3193.

Respectfully submitted,

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